

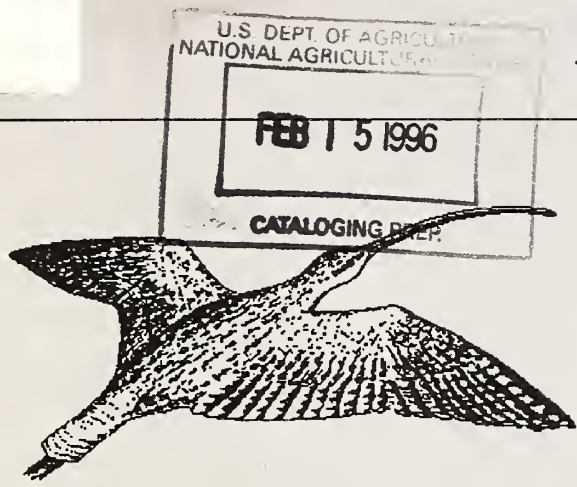
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1995

# Buffalo Gap National Grassland Birds



## LONG-BILLED CURLEW

### FIELD CHECKLIST

The Buffalo Gap National Grassland (BGNG), managed by the USDA, Forest Service, encompasses nearly 600,00 acres located in scattered tracts within Pennington, Jackson, Custer, and Fall River counties in southwest South Dakota. These areas offer a rich diversity of prairie habitats, including riparian areas, woody draws, shrublands, juniper breaks and open grasslands. Intermingled private lands add croplands and shelterbelts to the impressive habitat mosaic.

A tremendous number of birds, over 230 species,--large and small, silent and noisy--spend part of the year on the BGNG. Prairie birds are predominant and conspicuous, such as the Western meadowlark and Horned lark. Birds of prey find perfect hunting in the open country and can often be seen soaring above the grasslands. Stock ponds and cooperative Ducks Unlimited impoundments have created habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. The juniper breaks and woody draws are a sharp contrast to the grasslands, and provide critical habitat for many bird species.

This bird checklist was compiled with the assistance of several local birdwatchers. Special thanks go to Ken Graupman, Richard A. Peterson, and Dr. Nathaniel Whitney. These people have many years of birding experience in this area, and their comments are the primary reason for this revision of the original 1972 checklist.

Birdwatchers are encouraged to report observations of birds listed as rare, and birds not listed, to the USDA, Forest Service offices at the following locations:

National Grasslands  
Visitor Center  
708 Main Street  
Wall, SD 57790  
(605)279-2125

Fall River  
Ranger District  
209 N. River Street  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
(605)745-4107

### CHECKLIST SYMBOLS

Most species listed in this checklist occur regularly within the boundaries of the BGNG. The only abundance category used is the rare designation (\*) for species that occur irregularly and/or in very low numbers. A few species are designated as uncertain (?) occurrence on the BGNG. These species may be regular, but too few records exist to be certain. Species marked with (e) occur primarily on the eastern half of the BGNG, administered by the Wall Ranger District, Wall, SD. Species marked with (w) occur primarily on the western half, administered by the Fall River Ranger District, Hot Springs, SD. Key to symbols for habitat and season of occurrence are as follows:

### HABITATS

#### Terrestrial

1. **Trees:** Cottonwoods, green ash, boxelder, elm, and juniper in woody draws, riparian areas, and various native and introduced species in shelterbelts.
2. **Upland Shrubs:** Big sagebrush, silver sagebrush, and greasewood (western half only).
3. **Other Shrubs:** Buffaloberry, chokecherry, plum, and willow found primarily in woody draws, and riparian areas, as well as in shelterbelts.
4. **Short Grass:** Primarily buffalograss and blue grama on plains.
5. **Mid & Tall Grasses:** Primary mid grasses: wheatgrass, green needlegrass, and sideoats grama. Tall grasses include prairie sandreed and prairie cordgrass.

#### Aquatic Habitats

6. **Open Water:** Occurs in streams, stockponds, and reservoirs. (ice-covered mid November to mid March)
7. **Marsh:** Primarily cattails and bulrush around stockponds.
8. **Shorelines:** Bare ground around reservoirs and along streams.

#### Special Habitats

9. **Prairie Dog Towns:** Occur locally throughout area.
10. **Cliffs & Steep Banks:** Badlands, stream cutbanks, and gullies.
11. **Cropland:** Only on private land.
12. **Buildings, Bridges, & Various Structures:** Mostly on private land.

**Note:** Many of the raptors hunt over all of the habitats, so only the nesting and primary hunting habitats will be indicated.

### SEASON

M = Migrant  
R = Permanent Resident

W = Winter visitor  
S = Summer visitor

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	SEASON
	<b>Loons</b>		
	Common loon	6	M*
	<b>Grebes</b>		
	Pied-billed grebe	7	S
	Horned grebe	6	M*
	Eared grebe	7	S
	Western grebe	6	M
	Clark's grebe	6	M ?
	<b>Pelicans, Cormorants</b>		
	American white pelican	6	M
	Double-crested cormorant	1, 6	M, S*
	<b>Bitterns, Herons, Egrets</b>		
	American bittern	7	S
	Great blue heron	1, 7, 8	S
	Black-crowned night heron	1, 7	M* (e)
	<b>Ducks, Geese, Swans</b>		
	Tundra swan	6, 7	M ?
	Trumpeter swan	6, 7	S* (e)
	Greater white-fronted goose	6, 8	M* (e)
	Snow goose	6, 8, 11	M (e)
	Ross' goose	6, 8	M ?
	Canada goose	5, 6, 7, 8, 11	M, S (e)
	Wood duck	1, 6, 7	M, S*
	Mallard	5, 6, 7	S
	Northern pintail	5, 6, 7	S
	Green-winged teal	5, 6, 7	S
	Blue-winged teal	5, 6, 7	S
	Cinnamon teal	5, 6, 7	M, S*
	Northern shoveler	5, 6, 7	S
	Gadwall	5, 6, 7	S
	American widgeon	5, 6, 7	S
	Canvasback	6, 7	M
	Redhead	6, 7	M, S*
	Ring-necked duck	6, 7	M
	Lesser scaup	6, 7	M
	Common goldeneye	6	M
	Bufflehead	6	M
	Hooded merganser	6	M*
	Common merganser	6	M
	Ruddy duck	7	S
	<b>Vultures, Hawks, Eagles, Falcons</b>		
	Turkey vulture	10, 5	S
	Osprey	1, 6	M ?
	Bald eagle	1, 5, 6, 9	W
	Northern harrier	5, 7	S, W*
	Sharp-shinned hawk	1, 3	M

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	SEASON
	Cooper's hawk	1, 3	M, S*
	Northern goshawk	1, 3	M*
	Swainson's hawk	1, 4, 5	S
	Red-tailed hawk	1, 4, 5	S, W*
	Ferruginous hawk	1, 4, 5, 9	S, W*
	Rough-legged hawk	1, 4, 5,	W
	Golden eagle	1, 4, 5, 9, 10	R
	American kestrel	1, 4, 5, 11	S, W*
	Merlin	4, 5, 6, 8	M, W*
	Peregrine falcon	4, 5, 6, 8	M*
	Prairie falcon	4, 5, 9, 10	S, W*
	<b>Grouse, Pheasants</b>		
	Gray partridge	5, 3, 11	R*
	Ring-necked pheasant	3, 5, 7, 11	R
	Sage grouse	2	R* (w)
	Sharp-tailed grouse	5, 3	R
	Wild turkey	1, 3	R*
	<b>Rails, Coots</b>		
	Virginia rail	7	S
	Sora	7	S
	American coot	6, 7	S
	<b>Cranes</b>		
	Sandhill crane	5, 8, 11	M
	Whooping crane	5, 8, 11	M* (e)
	<b>Shorebirds, Waders</b>		
	Black-bellied plover	8	M*
	Semipalmated plover	8	M
	Piping plover	8	M*
	Killdeer	4, 8, 9	S
	American avocet	7, 8	M, S*
	Greater yellowlegs	8	M
	Lesser yellowlegs	8	M
	Solitary sandpiper	8	M
	Willet	8	M
	Spotted sandpiper	8	S
	Upland sandpiper	5	S
	Long-billed curlew	4, 5, 9	S
	Marbled godwit	5, 8	M, S* (e)
	Sanderling	8	M*
	Semipalmated sandpiper	8	M
	Western sandpiper	8	M*
	Least sandpiper	8	M
	Baird's sandpiper	8	M
	Pectoral sandpiper	8	M*
	Stilt sandpiper	8	M*
	Buff-breasted sandpiper	8	M* (e)



✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	SEASON
	Long-billed dowitcher	8	M
	Short-billed dowitcher	8	M ?
	Common snipe	7	M
	Wilson's phalarope	6, 7	S
	Red-necked phalarope	6, 7	M ?
	<b>Jaegers, Gulls, Terns</b>		
	Franklin's gull	6, 8, 11	M
	Bonaparte's gull	6	M*
	Ring-billed gull	6, 8	M
	Herring gull	6	M* (e)
	Common tern	6, 8	M* (e)
	Forster's tern	6, 8	M
	Black tern	7	M,S
	<b>Doves, Pigeons</b>		
	Rock dove	10, 11, 12	R
	Mourning dove	1, 2, 3	S
	<b>Cuckoos</b>		
	Black-billed cuckoo	1, 3	S
	Yellow-billed cuckoo	1, 3	S
	<b>Owls</b>		
	Common barn owl	1, 5, 10, 12	S*
	Eastern screech owl	1,3	R
	Great horned owl	1, 3, 5	R
	Snowy owl	4, 5, 11	W*
	Burrowing owl	4, 9	S
	Long-eared owl	1, 3, 5	R*
	Short-eared owl	5, 7	R*
	<b>Goatsuckers</b>		
	Common nighthawk	1, 4, 5, 11	S
	Common poorwill	1, 10	S ? (e)
	<b>Swifts</b>		
	White-throated swift	10	S ? (e)
	<b>Hummingbirds</b>		
	Rufous hummingbird	1, 2, 3, 12	M ? (w)
	Broad-tailed hummingbird	1, 2, 3, 12	M ? (w)
	<b>Kingfishers</b>		
	Belted kingfisher	6, 10	S
	<b>Woodpeckers</b>		
	Red-headed woodpecker	1	S
	Downy woodpecker	1	R
	Hairy woodpecker	1	R
	Northern flicker	1, 5	R
	<b>Flycatchers</b>		
	Western wood pewee	1	M, S*
	Willow flycatcher	3	M, S*
	Least flycatcher	1, 3	M, S ?

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	SEASON
	Say's phoebe	4, 5, 10, 12	S
	Great-crested flycatcher	1	S*
	Western kingbird	1	S
	Eastern kingbird	1	S
	<b>Larks</b>		
	Horned lark	4,9	R
	<b>Swallows</b>		
	Tree swallow	1, 6	S*
	Violet-green swallow	10	S ?
	Northern rough-winged swallow	6, 10	S
	Bank swallow	6, 10	S*
	Cliff swallow	6, 10	S
	Barn swallow	12	S
	<b>Crows, Jays</b>		
	Blue jay	1	R
	Black-billed magpie	1, 3	R
	American crow	1	R
	<b>Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches</b>		
	Black-capped chickadee	1	R
	Red-breasted nuthatch	1, 3	M*
	White-breasted nuthatch	1	R*
	Brown creeper	1	W*
	<b>Wrens</b>		
	Rock wren	10	S
	House wren	1	S
	Marsh wren	7	S
	<b>Kinglets, Gnatcatchers</b>		
	Golden-crowned kinglet	1, 3	M
	Ruby-crowned kinglet	1, 3	M
	<b>Thrushes, Bluebirds</b>		
	Eastern bluebird	1, 5	M, S*
	Mountain bluebird	1, 5	M, S*
	Townsend's solitaire	1, 3	W
	Veery	3	M*
	Swainson's thrush	3	M
	American robin	1, 3, 5	S, W*
	<b>Mockingbirds, Thrashers</b>		
	Gray catbird	1, 3	M, S*
	Northern Mockingbird	1, 3	S* (w)
	Sage thrasher	2	S* (w)
	Brown thrasher	1, 3	S
	<b>Pipits</b>		
	Water pipit	4, 5	M*
	<b>Waxwings</b>		
	Bohemian waxwing	1, 3	W
	Cedar waxwing	1, 3	R

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	SEASON
	<b>Shrikes</b>		
	Northern shrike	1, 3	W
	Loggerhead shrike	3	S
	<b>Starlings</b>		
	European starling	1, 12	R
	<b>Vireos</b>		
	Bell's vireo	3	S*
	Warbling vireo	1	S
	Red-eyed vireo	1, 3	M, S*
	<b>Warbler's</b>		
	Tennessee warbler	1, 3	M* (e)
	Orange-crowned warbler	1, 3	M
	Yellow warbler	1, 3	S
	Chestnut-sided warbler	1, 3	M* (e)
	Yellow-rumped warbler	1, 3	M
	Blackpoll warbler	1, 3	M ?
	Black-and-white warbler	1, 3	M*
	American redstart	1, 3	M, S*
	Ovenbird	1, 3	M, S*
	Northern waterthrush	1, 3	M* (e)
	MacGillivray's warbler	3	M ?
	Common yellowthroat	3, 7	S
	Wilson's warbler	3	M
	Yellow-breasted chat	3	S
	<b>Tanagers</b>		
	Western tanager	1, 3	M* (w)
	<b>Sparrows, Finches, Grosbeaks</b>		
	Rose-breasted grosbeak	1, 3	M*
	Black-headed grosbeak	1, 3	S
	Blue grosbeak	3	S
	Lazuli bunting	3	S
	Indigo bunting	1, 3	S*
	Dicksissel	5, 11	S ?
	Rufous-sided towhee	3	S
	American tree sparrow	3, 11	W
	Chipping sparrow	1, 3	M, S*
	Clay-colored sparrow	2, 3	M
	Brewer's sparrow	2	S* (w)
	Field sparrow	3	S
	Vesper sparrow	2, 5, 11	M, S*
	Lark sparrow	2, 3, 5	S
	Lark bunting	2, 4, 5	S
	Savannah sparrow	5, 11	M, S ?
	Baird's sparrow	4, 5	M ?
	Grasshopper sparrow	5, 11	S
	Song sparrow	3, 7, 11	M

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	SEASON
	Lincoln's sparrow	3	M*
	White-throated sparrow	3, 11	M*
	White-crowned sparrow	3, 11	M
	Harris sparrow	3	M
	Dark-eyed junco	3	W
	McCown's longspur	4, 5	M* (w)
	Lapland longspur	4, 11	M, W *
	Chestnut-collared longspur	4, 5	S
	Snow bunting	4, 11	W*
	<b>Blackbirds, Orioles, Meadowlarks</b>		
	Bobolink	5, 11	S ?
	Red-winged blackbird	3, 7, 11	S
	Western Meadowlark	4, 5, 11	S
	Yellow-headed blackbird	7, 11	S
	Rusty blackbird	3, 11	M*
	Brewer's blackbird	3, 11	S*
	Common grackle	1, 11	S
	Brown-headed cowbird	3, 4, 5, 7	S
	Orchard oriole	1, 3	S
	Northern oriole	1	S
	<b>Finches, Grosbeaks</b>		
	Rosy finch	10, 11	W (e)
	Common redpoll	3, 11	W
	Pine siskin	1, 3, 11	W
	American goldfinch	1, 3, 11	R
	Evening grosbeak	1, 3	W*
	<b>Weaver finches</b>		
	House sparrow	12, 11	R

The following field guides are designed to help birdwatchers identify the birds encountered on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. These field guides are available through the Badlands Natural History Association at the National Grasslands Visitor Center in Wall, SD.

Bull, J., and J. Farrand, Jr. 1992. The Audubon Society field guide to North American Birds, eastern edition. Alfred A. Knopf:NY, NY 784 pp.

Peterson, R. T. 1990. Western Birds. Houghton Mifflin Co.: NY, NY 432 pp.

Robbins, C. S., B. Bruun, and H. S. Zim. 1983. Birds of North America. Golden Press:NY, NY 360 pp.



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